

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of May 30, 2007. The feature of claim 3 is incorporated into claim 1, and claim 3 is accordingly cancelled, without prejudice. The feature of claim 4 is incorporated into claim 1, and claim 4 is accordingly cancelled, without prejudice. The feature of claim 6 is incorporated into claim 1, claim 6 is accordingly cancelled, without prejudice, and the dependency of claim 7 is adjusted. Claim 1 is also reworded to deal with the formal rejection made at the top of page 2 of the Office Action. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-13 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to define the invention properly. Claim 1 has been amended to specify “reinforcing fiber yarns having a sheet shape with a support fibrous member.” It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended obviate the rejection stated by the Examiner at the top of page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-3 and 6-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 2001/0006866 A1 (Kuroiwa). Office Action, pages 2-3. The rejection does not apply to the claims currently before the Examiner, which include – among other things – the feature of admittedly non-anticipated original claim 4.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroiwa in view of US 6,641,763 B2 (Nakamura). Office Action, page 3. It is respectfully submitted that this ground of rejection does not apply to claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-13 as they are pending in the application.

The claims currently before the Examiner require – among other things -- a reinforcing non-woven base fabric which includes reinforcing fiber yarns having a sheet shape with a support fibrous member, wherein not less than two layers of the reinforcing non-woven base fabric are laminated with the reinforcing fiber yarns being used as a group of warp yarns and with the support fibrous member being used as a group of weft yarns, and wherein the support fibrous member is formed of multifilament yarn that is made of composite fibers constituted by at least two or more olefin-based polymers having a difference in melting points, wherein, with respect to the polymers having a difference in melting points, the high melting point polymer is a polypropylene polymer and the low melting point polymer is polyethylene or a low melting point polypropylene polymer. Neither Kuroiwa nor Nakamura, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests this combination of features.

Unlike the present invention, neither Kuroiwa nor Nakamura, considered separately or considered together, places into the possession of the public a non-woven base fabric which is free from adverse effects such as moisture-absorbing properties and voids, and which has superior properties including flexibility and light weight. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-13 as they are pending in the application are allowable over the Kuroiwa and Nakamura disclosures.


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If there are any questions concerning the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

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Respectfully submitted.

By  #42,874 .
RL Marc S. Weiner
Registration No.: 32,181
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant